This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the applications. Please add new claims 28-38.

Listing of Claims:

(Claims 1-16 have been cancelled)

17.(Original)   A memory system comprising:

a plurality of memory groups, each of said memory groups comprising a plurality of memory sectors, each of said memory sectors comprising a plurality of memory cells;

a plurality of group tags, each of said group tags corresponds to one of said memory groups, each of said group tags indicating whether the memory cells under the corresponding memory group are erasable; and

a plurality of sector tags, each of said sector tags corresponds to a memory sector, each of said sector tags indicating whether the memory cells under the corresponding memory sector are erasable,

wherein all the memory cells belonging to one memory sector are erasable when either the corresponding sector tag or the corresponding group tag of the memory sector is set;

wherein any combination of memory sectors in a memory group can be simultaneously erased, and any combination of the memory groups can be simultaneously erased.

18.(Original) The memory system according to Claim 17, wherein the number of memory sectors in each memory group is configurable.

19.(Original) The memory system according to Claim 18, wherein the corresponding sectors in each memory group is calculated in real time.

20.(Original) The memory system according to Claim 17, wherein the number of memory cells in each memory sector is configurable.

21.(Original) The memory system according to Claim 20, wherein the corresponding memory cells in each memory sector is calculated in real time.

22.(Original) The memory system according to claim 17 is a flash memory.

(Claim 23 has been cancelled.)

24.(Previously Presented) A memory system comprising:

a plurality of memory groups, each of said memory groups comprising a plurality of memory cells, wherein the number of memory cells in each memory group is configurable;

a plurality of group tags, each of said group tags corresponding to one of said memory groups, each of said group tags indicating whether the memory cells under the corresponding memory group are write protected; and

wherein any combination of the memory groups can be write protected.

25.(Previously Presented) A memory system comprising:

a plurality of memory groups, each of said memory groups comprising a plurality of memory cells, wherein the corresponding cells in each memory group are calculated in real time;

a plurality of group tags, each of said group tags corresponding to one of said memory groups, each of said group tags indicating whether the memory cells under the corresponding memory group are write protected; and

wherein any combination of the memory groups can be write protected.

26.(Previously Presented) The memory system according to claim 24 is a flash memory.

27.(Previously Presented) The memory system according to claim 25 is a flash memory.

28.(New) The memory system according to Claim 17, wherein said sector tags and said group tags are settable by a host to which the memory system is connected.

29.(New) The memory system according to Claim 28, wherein said sector tags and said group tags are set in response to a host command.

30.(New) The memory system according to Claim 29, wherein set ones of said sector tags and said group tags are deselected in response to a host command.

31.(New) The memory system according to Claim 18, wherein the number of memory sectors in each memory group is configurable by a host to which the memory system is connected.

32.(New) The memory system according to Claim 20, wherein the number of memory cells in each memory sector is configurable by a host to which the memory system is connected.

33.(New) The memory system according to Claim 17, wherein in response to too few tags being set, a received erase command is aborted.

34.(New) The memory system according to claim 24, wherein said group tags are settable by a host to which the memory system is connected.

35.(New) The memory system according to Claim 34, wherein said group tags are set in response to a host command.

36.(New) The memory system according to Claim 35, wherein set ones of said group tags are deselected in response to a host command.

37.(New) A memory system comprising:

a plurality of memory groups, each of said memory groups comprising a plurality of memory cells;

a plurality of group tags, each of said group tags corresponding to one of said memory groups, each of said group tags indicating whether the memory cells under the corresponding memory group are write protected; and

wherein any combination of the memory groups can be write protected and said group tags are settable in response to a command from a host to which the memory system is connected.

38.(New) The memory system according to Claim 37, wherein set ones of said group tags are deselected in response to command from said host.